



La Manga Club
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Three English clubs will participate in the MCC's second Solidarity Twenty20 cricket tournament at the La Manga Club, in southern Spain next month (April 25-27) ... that's the Madrid Cricket Club of course.

It will be only the second time the drama of a Twenty20 tournament has been seen in Spain and its aim is to raise money to support the work of the Vicente Ferrer Foundation in Anantapur, India.

Eight teams from Spain, the UK and the Netherlands will take part: Madrid CC, La Manga CC, Mojacar CC, Bank of England CC, Belsize Village CC, Milton Keynes CC, Amsterdam CC and The Hague CC.

Money raised from the tournament will go towards improving the lives of some of the poorest and most disadvantaged people in Anantapur, where the Spanish non-governmental organisation the Vicente Ferrer Foundation is based. Some funding will also be used for the development of cricket in Madrid.

The vice-president of the MCC, Jonathan Woodward, explained: "We have often raised funds for NGOs, but this year we decided to go further and hold a full-blown, eight-team tournament.

"The funds raised in aid of the Vicente Ferrer Foundation will help to set up a cricket school for more than 1,200 children with visual and hearing impairments and learning difficulties. The funds will provide specialised equipment to help them enjoy the sport so loved in their country.

"Other funds raised during the tournament will be used to develop cricket in Madrid. Our aim is to bring the sport we love to a wider audience and we want to encourage the Spanish to give it a try. We hope to purchase additional equipment to provide classes and practice sessions for beginners through to regular players."

The La Manga Club hosted the inaugural Solidarity Twenty20 tournament in Madrid in October 2007, raising more than €2,000 for UNICEF. Thanks to its efforts, ICC Europe awarded the club its *ICC Development Program Best Spirit of Cricket Initiative* for 2007 in Europe, the first time a Spanish club had taken a European award.

The second tournament has the full backing of Cricket España, which will use it as a showcase event to highlight the 'Spirit of Cricket' – an initiative designed to ensure that cricket is always played in a truly sportsmanlike manner - and to also mark the centenary of the ICC.

The addition of two regulation club turf pitches and four full length nets cements further La Manga Club's standing as the 'home of cricket in Spain'. International sides have chosen the resort for their training base on many occasions as the outstanding cricket facilities are just part of the overall attraction of Europe's number one sport and leisure resort, with a Mediterranean climate that makes it possible to train outdoors in the sunshine all year round. La Manga Club also runs a series of popular 'In-Touch' junior cricket academies during school holiday periods.

La Manga Club Resort is also the main sponsor of the event and managing director Julio Delgado said: "We are delighted to host this event to raise funds for the Vicente Ferrer Foundation. We hope this will be the first of many cricket tournaments here."

■ The second Solidarity Twenty20 tournament, sponsored by La Manga Club, takes place at the La Manga Club, Murcia, Spain, from April 25-27.

ENDS

Notes:

Madrid Cricket Club is one of the premier cricket clubs in Spain. Founded in 1975, it is the oldest club in the country. Madrid CC organises, runs and develops cricket in the Spanish capital and plays in the Spanish National Cricket League, finishing runners-up in 2007 and third in 2008. Madrid CC received the 2007 ICC Development Program Best Spirit of Cricket Initiative in Europe Award for hosting the '1st Solidarity Twenty20 Cricket Tournament' in October 2007 to raise funds for UNICEF.

The Vicente Ferrer Foundation is a Spanish Development NGO operating in Anantapur, India. Taking a humanistic approach to development, the Foundation works to improve the life conditions of the poorest, most vulnerable and most disadvantaged people in the region, including children with disabilities (www.fundacionvicenteferrer.org).

Cricket España is the governing body for the sport in Spain. Founded in 1986, Cricket España now brings together 20 teams from many parts of the country. Its mission is to promote the sport, encourage youth participation, develop cricketing abilities, organise competitions and national teams and ensure the Spirit of Cricket prevails in the sport in Spain. Spain became an Affiliate Member of the ICC in 1992 (www.icc-europe.org/SPAIN).

More details are available on the Madrid CC website: www.cricketinmadrid.com.

About La Manga Club

As a result of 37 years of continued investment, innovation and commitment to excellence, which have ensured that it has remained at the forefront of the sector, La Manga Club is widely recognised as Spain's flagship resort and as one of the finest in the world.

Evidence of this is provided by its numerous World Travel Award nominations and prizes, such as the World's Leading Sports Resort (top 5, 2006 and 2007), Spain's Leading Golf Resort (winner, 2006), Europe's Leading Golf Resort (winner, 2001, 2003 and 2005), and Europe's Leading Conference Hotel (winner, 2003). In addition, the hotel obtained the prestigious Q for Quality certification in 2002.

La Manga Club is a spectacular resort located in the Murcia region of south-east Spain. Set out over an area of some 560 hectares (approx. 1,400 acres), it offers visitors a five-star hotel, luxury vacation apartments and 450 hectares of sports facilities, highlights of which include its three 18-hole golf courses, 28 tennis courts and its eight-pitch professional football centre, which also offers facilities for cricket, rugby and Gaelic football.

The resort is also home to innumerable leisure facilities, such as the 2000m² Spa La Manga Club with its 13 luxurious treatment rooms, comprehensive fitness centre and 25m indoor swimming pool; meeting, banqueting and incentive facilities, and more than 20 restaurants and bars.

La Manga Club is located in a unique setting amid the rolling hills that separate the crystalline Mediterranean from the warm waters of the Mar Menor Sea in Murcia, southern Spain. Lying to the south of the Costa Blanca, this region is known as the Costa Cálida, or 'warm coast', thanks to its mild, year-round Mediterranean climate.